Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.   (Currently Amended) A cooperative processing apparatus comprising:

a sending and receiving unit for sending and receiving cooperation information to be used for executing a flow of services on document data in a cooperative manner and a processing result of a service to and from other cooperative processing apparatus;

a service processing unit for performing a prescribed service on the basis of the cooperation information; and

a control unit for performing:

_____a first control of controlling, when receiving cooperation information, the service processing unit so that it performs the service on the basis of the cooperation information;

_____a second control of sending, to a transmission source apparatus of the cooperation information, a processing result indicating whether the service processing unit has performed the service normally or abnormally, and, if the service processing unit has performed the service normally, copying the cooperation information and controlling the sending and receiving unit so that it sends ~~one piece of~~ a copy of the cooperation information to a next cooperative processing apparatus that is to perform a next service on the basis of the cooperation information; and

_____a third control of controlling the sending and receiving unit so that if an abnormality occurs wherein the next service is not performed by the next cooperative processing apparatus after the next cooperative processing apparatus receives the cooperation information, the sending and receiving unit ~~it~~ sends ~~the other piece of~~ a copy of the cooperation information to a substitute cooperative processing apparatus capable of

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performing a substitute service for the next service. ~~when an abnormality has occurred in the cooperative processing apparatus in performing the next service after receiving the cooperation information.~~

2.   (Currently Amended) The cooperative processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein ~~in~~ the third control ~~the control unit judges that~~ is configured to determine that an abnormality has occurred in the <u>next</u> cooperative processing apparatus ~~in performing the next service after receiving the cooperation information if~~:

_____a processing result of the next service received from the <u>next</u> cooperative processing apparatus for performing the next service indicates occurrence of an abnormality, or

_____if no processing result of the next service is received in a prescribed period of time from the <u>next</u> cooperative processing apparatus for performing the next service.

3.   (Currently Amended) The cooperative processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein ~~in~~ the third control is configured ~~the control unit suspends~~ to suspend the flow and <u>control</u> ~~controls~~ the sending and receiving unit so that it sends a processing result indicating occurrence of an abnormality to a cooperative processing apparatus that sent the cooperative information first if no processing result of the next service or the substitute service for the next service is received within a predetermined processing period of time or if there exists no cooperative processing apparatus capable of performing a substitute service for the next service.

4.   (Currently Amended) A cooperative processing method comprising:

a first control step of controlling a service processing unit for performing a service so that it performs the prescribed service on the basis of cooperation information when the cooperation information is received by a sending and receiving unit for sending and receiving cooperation information to be used for executing a prescribed flow of services on

document data in a cooperative manner and a processing result of a service to and from other cooperative processing apparatus;

a second control step of sending, to a transmission source of the cooperation information, a processing result indicating whether the service processing unit has performed the service normally or abnormally, and, if the service processing unit has performed the service normally, copying the cooperation information and controlling the sending and receiving unit so that it sends ~~one piece of~~ a copy of the cooperation information to a next cooperative processing apparatus that is to perform a next service on the basis of the cooperation information; and

a third control step of controlling the sending and receiving unit so that if an abnormality occurs wherein the next service is not performed by the next cooperative processing apparatus after the next cooperative processing apparatus receives the cooperation information, the sending and receiving unit ~~it~~ sends ~~the other piece of~~ a copy of the cooperation information to a substitute cooperative processing apparatus capable of performing a substitute service for the next service. ~~when an abnormality has occurred in the cooperative processing apparatus in performing the next service after receiving the cooperation information.~~

5.   (Currently Amended) The cooperative processing method according to claim 4, wherein the third control step judges that an abnormality has occurred in the next cooperative processing apparatus ~~in performing the next service after receiving the cooperation information~~ if:

_____a processing result of the next service received from the next cooperative processing apparatus for performing the next service indicates occurrence of an abnormality, or

_____if no processing result of the next service is received in a prescribed period of time from the next cooperative processing apparatus for performing the next service.

      6.   (Currently Amended) The cooperative processing method according to claim 4, wherein the third control step suspends the flow and controls the sending and receiving unit so that it sends a processing result indicating occurrence of an abnormality to a cooperative processing apparatus that sent the cooperative information first if no processing result of the next service or the substitute service for the next service is received within a predetermined processing period of -time or if there exists no cooperative processing apparatus capable of performing a substitute service for the next service.